

I'd write and ask him but I'm  
not a  
fan.

#### OUR CURIOUS POSITION

Saroyan on his deathbed said,  
"I thought I would never die...."

I know what he meant:  
I think of myself forever  
rolling a cart through a  
supermarket  
looking for onions, potatoes  
and bread  
while watching the misshapen  
and droll ladies push  
by.

I think of myself forever  
driving the freeway  
looking through a dirty  
windshield with the radio on  
to something I don't want  
to hear.

I think of myself forever  
tilted back in a  
dentist's chair  
mouth

propped open  
musing that

I'm in

Who's Who in America.

I think of myself forever  
in a room with a depressed  
and unhappy woman.

I think of myself forever  
in the bathtub  
farting underwater  
watching the bubbles  
and feeling proud  
of that immense stink  
which arises.

but dead, no ...  
blood pin-pointing out of  
the nostrils,  
my head cracking across  
the desk  
my fingers grabbing at  
dark space ...  
impossible ....



I think of myself forever  
sitting upon the edge  
of the bed  
in my shorts with  
toenail clippers  
cracking off  
huge and ugly chunks  
of nail  
as I smile  
in victory  
while my white cat  
sits in the window  
looking out over the  
town  
as the telephone  
rings ...

in between the  
punctuating  
agonies  
life is such a  
gentle habit,  
I understand what  
Saroyan  
meant:

I think of myself forever  
walking down the  
stairs  
opening the door  
walking down to the  
mailbox  
and finding all that  
advertising  
which  
I don't believe  
either.

#### SHE GOES FOR THE SPIN-OFF

she comes rushing in  
excited.  
"guess what?" she asks.  
"gee, I dunno..." I say.  
"I'm going to see this punk band,  
the lead guy named himself after  
you, he calls himself Chuck  
Dukowski!"  
"oh yeah?"

she rushes about preparing herself  
for the evening.